

n/041/009

STAFF REPORT

Case Serial No: UT-056-2P
Operator: Georgia Pacific Corporation
Project Description: Waste wallboard
Legal Description: T. 23 S., R. 1 W., Sec. 5, SE1/4NE1/4
District and Resource Area: Richfield, Sevier River
Author: Linda L. Jackson
Report Date: 7/24/90

A meeting was held on 7/19/90 at the Georgia Pacific mine, southeast of Sigurd, with representatives of Georgia Pacific (G-P) and the State of Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGM). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the disposal of reject wallboard on BLM administered lands. G-P was represented by:

Dave Corkill, Plant Manager, Sigurd mine
Bob Shajary, Quarry Superintendent, Las Vegas mine
Brent Bastian, Quarry Manager, Sigurd mine

DOGM was represented by:

Holland Shepard, Reclamation Soils Specialist
Tony Gallegos, Reclamation Engineer

The BLM was represented by:

Rod Lister, Area Manager, SRRA
Doug Thurman, Natural Resource Specialist, SRRA
Linda Jackson, Seasonal Geologist, SRRA

Michael Jackson, Richfield D.O. geologist, had requested this meeting but was unable to attend.

An unauthorized reject wallboard dump site was discovered on BLM administered lands by BLM staff in December of 1989. Georgia Pacific was informed that they must submit a modification to their plan of operation for BLM evaluation. They have done so, and this current meeting and inspection was held to discuss G-P's desire to continue dumping and the future reclamation of this site.

Reject wallboard has been dumped at this site for the last four to five years. At present, the disturbed area measures approximately 335 feet by 180 feet. Approximately eight to fifteen 15-ton loads are hauled to the site per week. Dave Corkill stated that he believes fewer loads will be hauled in the future due to constantly improving quality standards; however, he could give no specifics as to how much of a reduction there would be.

The current reject material is mostly wet waste which is the start-up material, discharge from dust collectors and some damaged final product. The dust discharge is almost pure gypsum. The coarser materials are composed of 90+% gypsum, paper, glue fiberglass, sawdust, starch, vermiculite and lignisite. The wallboard has 1.4 pounds/1000 square feet of boric acid. Fire rated products have 50 pounds/1000 square feet of clay.

It was G-P's intention to reclaim this site by establishing an adequate slope for runoff purposes and then covering the reject material with a foot of "topsoil" from the mine site. Reseeding would be done to conform to BLM regulations.

Both DOGM and BLM representatives stated that a minimum of 18 inches soil cover would be needed and possibly more. This was to be verified and G-P would be informed of the results.

Rod Lister wanted G-P's definition of "topsoil". G-P called any dirt used to cover the site "topsoil". Rod explained the true definition of topsoil. The DOGM personnel agreed that the overburden G-P intended to use for this purpose was adequate. True topsoil would be very difficult to find here in any quantity and would be prohibitively expensive to buy and ship from another source. G-P has had fair results in getting vegetation to grow on other reclaimed portions of their mine using this overburden. Rod agreed with DOGM but wants G-P to work closely with the BLM during the reclamation process. Doug Thurman was going to check on a few different species of vegetation from the normal seed mixture. He felt these might work better in such poor soil.

A new landfill site adjacent to the G-P operation has been proposed. The landfill would need a six inch cover of dirt or other acceptable material every day. They would also be required to use eighteen inches of cover for every eight feet of landfill. G-P believes that their reject wallboard if moderately crushed would be perfect for this cover material. It could be used until a final cover on the landfill was needed. At that point, this inert product would not be acceptable. Water might have to be used at the landfill as a dust abatement for this material. The use of the crushed wallboard for the day to day cover would also reduce the need to dump reject material at the mine site. I have since discovered that the chances for the proposed landfill being permitted for this area are slim. The State Geological Survey, in 1989, rated this location an unsuitable landfill site.

Holland Shepard indicated the final slope ratio should be no greater than 2.5:1. He would prefer that the slope be even gentler than that. He wants to know if the BLM has any specific requirements for this. The State stipulations only require slopes reasonable for vegetation growth unless there is a variance. DOGM has given G-P a variance for highwalls but not for the dump site.

Holland Shepard intends to write a letter to this office, with a copy to G-P, suggesting a minimum thickness on soil cover and a seed recommendation. He suggested that the BLM ask G-P to put in writing exactly how they intend to reclaim the site.

Rod Lister gave permission for G-P to continue the dumping at this site for now. Final permission will depend on recommendations from the State of Utah Bureau of Solid and Hazardous Waste. Holland Shepard plans to suggest that Solid Waste personnel come down and inspect this operation. He had spoken with the Solid Waste supervisor, Rusty Lindburgh, on 7/18/90. At that time, a decision had not been made to either permit the dump site or write an exemption. Their biggest concerns are the composition of material being dumped and the dump's proximity to water.

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Authorized Officer:

J. Rodenik Lister